

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06700 230853Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ABF-01 SS-15 A-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 /048 W

-----082734 231422Z /50

R 230722Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4109

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, AS

SUBJECT: NICKEL DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 208670

1. EMBOFFS BRIEFED GAO TEAM ON NICKEL ISSUE BEFORE TEAM BEGAN ITS MEETINGS WITH AUSTRALIANS. EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED TEAM ON CALLS WHICH INCLUDED GOA DEPARTMENTS OF TRADE AND RESOURCES, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND THE TREASURY AND, IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES (CAI) AND THE AUSTRALIAN MINING INDUSTRIES COUNCIL (AMIC) CANBERRA VISIT ALSO INCLUDED CALLS ON ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS AT ANU.

2. GOA BRIEFING TEAMS INCLUDED POLICY AND COMMODITY

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EXPERTS (INCLUDING JMWILCOX, ACTG FIRST ASST SECY WHO DISCUSSED NICKEL DIALOGUE CANBERRA 6383) CONCERNED WITH RANGE OF ISSUES OUTLINED STATE 187764 AND STATE 191211. TEAMS PROVIDED GENERAL OVERVIEW, BUT NO IN DEPTH ANALYSIS, WITH RESPECT TO COPPER, LEAD, ZINC, TIN, TUNGSTEN, CAL, IRON ORE, MINERAL SANDS, PHOSPHATE, MANGANESE, BAUXITE, SALT, PETROLEUM AND NICKEL. EMBOFF TOLD WILCOX BEFORE

BRIEFINGS THAT WE DID NOT PROPOSE TO BRING UP NICKEL
DIALOGUE QUESTION AND HE AGREED NOT TO DO SO ON PART OF GOA.
THUS, ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED BY THE AUSTRALIANS AND GAO TEAM
DID NOT RAISE IT.

3. SUBSTANCE OF TALKS IN CANBERRA BEING REPORTED SEPTEL
AND IN CONTEXT OF MINERALS VVCY REVIEW NOW UNDER WAY IN
CONNECTION WITH EMBASSY'S RESPONSES TO STATE 191380. GAO
TEAM WILL BE IN AUSTRALIA FOR REMAINDER OF NEXT TWO WEEKS
AND WILL BE WITH STATE AND PRIVATE SECTOR AUTHORITIES IN
QUEENSLAND, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES.
AMIC AND CAI HAVE PROVIDED BROAD RANGE OF CONTACTS FOR GAO
TEAM TO SUPPLEMENT THOSE PROVIDED BY THE POSTS. THUS, WE
EXPECT THAT GAO WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS NICKEL
DURING REMAINDER OF VISIT IN AUSTRALIA AND PARTICULARLY IN
QUEENSLAND ALTHOUGH WE NOT SUGGESTING THAT NICKEL DIALOGUE
ISSUE WOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

4. COMMENT: WILCOX TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOA HAS NOT GIVEN
UP ON QUESTION OF NICKEL DIALOGUE AND THAT WHILE THERE
MAY BE SOME SLIPPAGE ON DATES OF SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1978
REPORTED CANBERRA 6383, WE COULD EXPECT THAT GOA INVITATIONS
TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING IN CANBERRA WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN
NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. EMBOFF SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE
WILCOX THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN USG POSITION ON THIS ISSUE
AS STATED TO GOA IN JULY (THIS BASED ON GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN
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STATE 1830069.
ALSTON

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